GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4697
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2007
SUB-STANDARD DATA BY CSO/ NSSO
Annayyagari Shri Sai Prathap

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the data collected by the Central Statistical Organisation and the National Sample Survey Organisation, especially on Agriculture, Health and Education is grossly sub-standard, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated April 11, 2007;

(b) if so, the fact in this regard; and

(c) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. The National Sample Survey Organization is one of the foremost sample survey organizations in the world and it quality is widely acknowledged. The Central Statistical Organization on the other hand, does not itself collect any primary data. Its main task is to collate data from diverse sources, such as State Governments, Central Ministries/Departments, PSUs etc. in order to generate national level statistics. All primary data collection involves a certain degree of error and continuous efforts are made to further improve the quality of the data.

(c) In order to strengthen the statistical system including the quality of official statistics and the following steps have been taken:

(1) To facilitate better collection of primary statistics, the Collection of Statistics Act, 1953 is being amended.

(2) The National Statistical Commission is mandated to evolve national strategies for the collection, tabulation and dissemination of core statistics.

(3) The Ministry has initiated a project aimed at strengthening the State Statistical Systems as part of India Statistical Strengthening Project (ISSP)

(4) As the primary data mostly flow from the States in order to ensure greater coordination between Central and State agencies, the Conference of Centre and State Statistical Organization has been institutionalized and senior level Indian Statistical Service (ISS) Officers have been posted in the States.